

## **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ADVISORY COUNCIL (DVAC)**

California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA)

Law Enforcement & Victims Services (LEVS) Division

**Thursday, December 10, 2009, 10:00 AM**

Cal EMA

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:** Alva Moreno, Ben Schirmer, Carey Sullivan, Cherri Allison, Christine Ward, Debra Suh, Gina Frisby (for Fiona Ma), Lynda Smallenberger, Mary Walton, Maxine Oliver-Benson and Nancy O'Malley.

**Members Absent:** Ellen Corbett

**Cal EMA Staff Present:** Brendan Murphy, Director, Grants Management Programs, Gina Buccieri-Harrington, Assistant Director, Grants Management Programs, Ellie Jones, Chief, Public Safety and Victim Services Division, Leigh Bills, Chief, Domestic Violence Section and Janine Williams, Criminal Justice Specialist II, Victim Services Branch and Cal EMA Lead for the DVAC.

**Present by Conference Call:** Suzanne Aebischer

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Janine Williams called the meeting to order at 10:15 A.M.

#### **II. INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME OF NEW MEMBERS**

Janine Williams welcomed all present and introduced Leigh Bills and Ellie Jones. Ms. Jones welcomed all the members and encouraged all members to participate fully in the meeting and to stop and ask questions as needed. Ms. Jones introduced Gina Buccieri-Harrington and Brendan Murphy who each welcomed the council members. All members introduced themselves.

Ellie expressed that this Council will be truly collaborative in nature. There will be difficult decisions/discussions ahead but Cal EMA is committed to a collaborative approach.

#### **III. OVERVIEW OF THE DVAC**

Janine Williams reviewed the Overview that the members had previously received in the mail, this included establishment, purpose and responsibilities of the Council.

Responsibilities include:

- Develop funding priorities;
- Frame the request for proposals;
- Solicit proposals; and

- Guidance on reverted funds.

Ms. Williams announced the need for the group to nominate a Chair and Co-Chair. Maxine Oliver-Benson and Lynda Smallenberger for Co-Chair and Ben Schirmer for Chair or Co-Chair were nominated at the meeting.

Nancy O'Malley suggested a need for a Sgt. at Arms and nominated herself. The group discussed that the focus of the group for the immediate future will be funding priorities.

Ben Schirmer raised the issue for future discussion on whether the Council is supposed to represent the field, their individual regions or their appointing power.

Ms. O'Malley suggested that the Council members are experts in the field and should be looking at this undertaking on a global level and not as advocates for particular regions and/or their appointing powers.

#### **IV. Cal EMA DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAMS OVERVIEW**

Leigh Bills and Janine Williams reviewed each program in the Domestic Violence Section which included the following:

- Statutory Programs, Discretionary Programs and One-Time Statutorily Funded Programs;
- Program Description;
- Number of Projects;
- Fund Sources and Match Requirements;
- Total Funding Amounts; and
- Grant Period.

Janine Williams provided an overview of the Domestic Violence Programs' State and Federal funds sources that included the following funds:

- Victims of Crime Act Funds (VOCA);
- Violence Against Women Act (VAWA);
- Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA); and
- State General Fund (GF)

The group discussed how funds were allocated and Cal EMA staff shared that there is a VAWA Implementation Committee that makes the recommendations for VAWA funds. The group requested a copy of the list of VAWA Implementation Committee members.

There was also a question about whether there was an initial funding formula that determined how much money each recipient would receive. Nancy O'Malley shared that she was on the committee in 1992 when Family Violence Prevention and Services Act funds were introduced to the Domestic Violence Assistance Program (DVAP) and

that created a need to re-formulate the Domestic Violence funds and that is was based on service population with accurate geographic ethnic representation.

Janine Williams provided an explanation on how the fund distribution is determined for each recipient. The members requested a copy of the DVAP fund spreadsheet. Ellie Jones discussed the order in which fund availability will end and the sequence is as follows: SBX 3-13 funds, State General Fund, FVPSA, VAWA and VOCA.

A request to determine the expenditure timeframe for SBX 3-13 funds will be sent to Cal EMA Legal for interpretation.

Ellie Jones and Leigh Bills provided an extensive review of the Grant Cycle at Cal EMA, a chart is attached.

## **V. MISCELLANEOUS**

The following items were discussed:

- Travel Expense Claim Packets – Janine Williams explained how to complete these packets for reimbursements;
- Next meeting date – February 26, 2010 – The council was discussed whether meetings should be alternated between northern and southern California. This will be an action item for the next meeting; and
- Upcoming issues and considerations for the future of the funding for the following DV programs:
  - Domestic Violence Response Team
  - Equality in Prevention and Services for Domestic Abuse
  - SBX3-13

## **VI. ACTION ITEMS FOR MEETING ON 2/26/10**

- Vote for Chair, Co-Chair and Sgt. at Arms.
- Vote on meeting locations Northern or Southern California

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM